



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY DENTAL COMMAND**  
**2050 WORTH ROAD**  
**FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS 78234-6000**

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

MCDS

18 March 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR All U.S. Army Dental Command Personnel

SUBJECT: U.S. Army Dental Command (DENCOM) Policy Letter 04-11,  
Use of Parenteral Techniques of Conscious Sedation (Intravenous  
Sedation)

1. SCOPE: This policy applies to all DENCOM facilities and  
personnel assigned to or working in those facilities.

2. POLICY:

a. Privileging: The use of parenteral techniques of  
conscious sedation in DENCOM facilities will be limited to those  
personnel who are granted privileges by the Dental Activity  
(DENTAC) Commander to perform such procedures. Following are  
minimum requirements for granting and maintaining privileges:

(1) Provider must hold full and unrestricted privileges  
to practice general dentistry or one of the approved specialties  
within the DENTAC.

(2) Provider must show proof of current certification in  
advanced cardiac life support (ACLS) at the time of initial  
request for privileges. Thereafter, providers must show proof of  
recertification in ACLS. The DENTAC Credentials Committee will  
verify ACLS recertification at the time of periodic review of  
privileges.

(3) Provider must show proof of current certification in  
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

(4) Provider must be a practicing dentist of high moral  
and ethical standards who has practiced for at least three years  
with unrestricted privileges in general dentistry or one of the  
approved specialties.

(5) Provider must show documentation of completion of an  
Army-approved course based upon ADA standards of instruction in  
parenteral techniques of conscious sedation.

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This course must include a rotation through a hospital anesthesiology service with the requirement of becoming competent in monitoring and maintaining the pulmonary and cardiovascular systems of an unconscious patient. To successfully complete a course of instruction in intravenous sedation, individuals must satisfy all didactic requirements and treat a minimum of twenty patients under the direct supervision of a dentist or physician who has had at least one year of formal training in general anesthesia and other forms of pain control and two years practice and/or teaching experience in the use of these modalities. DENTACs will not sponsor a course in intravenous sedation without prior approval from the DENCOM Commander. Guidelines for approval of intravenous sedation courses are available from the Chief, Graduate Dental Education Branch, 1750 Greeley Road, Suite 205, Bldg. 4011, Fort Sam Houston, TX 78234-6122, DSN 471-0079. Graduates of Army dental residency training programs who have successfully completed an intravenous sedation course will be given a letter of course completion signed by the residency program director and the DENTAC Commander. The letter will describe the course contents and its length; however, certificates resembling diplomas will not be issued. Copies of letters of course completion will be forwarded to the Chief, Graduate Dental Education Branch at the above address.

(6) If the credentials committee or DENTAC commander has reason to question the training, qualifications or competency of any individual requesting privileges, the individual may be required to demonstrate clinical proficiency in the use of parenteral techniques of conscious sedation. To demonstrate clinical proficiency, a dentist must treat patients with this modality while under the direct supervision of a dental or medical officer designated by the commander who is currently privileged in the use of intravenous sedation. The supervising officer must sign a statement certifying that the individual has demonstrated clinical proficiency (sample statement is attached).

(7) Graduates of the Army Periodontics training program and graduates of accredited training programs in Oral and Maxillofacial surgery and Pediatric Dentistry may be privileged for use of intravenous sedation based upon the scope of their training and experience. They are not required to present documentation of course completion; however, the commander may

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require them to demonstrate clinical proficiency as outlined  
above.

(8) All dentists who are presently granted privileges to  
perform parenteral techniques of conscious sedation will be  
eligible to continue utilizing this treatment modality provided  
they continue to meet the minimum requirements.

(9) Privileges for the use of parenteral techniques of  
conscious sedation will be considered lapsed if a dentist fails  
to use this modality at least ten times in a calendar year. To  
regain privileges, the dentist must demonstrate clinical  
proficiency as outlined above in item (6).

(10) A formal training program must be provided for all  
ancillary personnel who are involved in the monitoring and  
recovery of IV patients.

b. Forms and records:

(1) A dentist using parenteral techniques of conscious  
sedation will use written preoperative and postoperative  
instructions, written informed consent (documented by proper  
completion and signing of the SF 522), and proper recording of  
all procedures on the SF 603 and SF 517 (or a comparable,  
locally-approved form). Documented entries will include the  
following:

(a) Review of patient's medical history and current  
physical condition. Patients with questionable medical  
conditions (other than ASA 1 or ASA 2) must be referred for  
medical evaluation prior to initiating the procedure.

(b) Patient vital signs preoperatively, every 15  
minutes during the sedation procedure, and at completion of the  
procedure.

(c) All gaseous agents administered during the  
procedure (e.g. nitrous oxide-oxygen). If nitrous oxide is used,  
all aspects of the policy on "Use of Nitrous Oxide Conscious  
Sedation in Army Dental Care Facilities" also apply.

(d) All drugs, including the dosages, administered  
during the procedure. All clinical procedures performed and post  
operative instructions.

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(e) The patient's postoperative condition as per established discharge criteria, to include level of consciousness, orientation, ability to ambulate, and the availability of a responsible adult escort.

(2) The SF 517 (or comparable, locally approved form) will be completed in duplicate for each patient treated with intravenous sedation techniques. The original will be maintained in department files and the individual performing the procedure will maintain one copy. Individual copies will be available for review by the local credentials committee.

c. The use of parental techniques of conscious sedation requires the availability and use of special equipment.

(1) Minimum requirements in all cases treated with intravenous sedation include the use of pulse oximeters to monitor oxygen saturation, EKG monitors, heart rate and blood pressure monitors, and the availability of appropriate emergency drugs and medical equipment.

(2) Dental treatment facilities that are not located within a hospital are not subject to Joint Commission of Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) standards for the use of conscious sedation. However, JCAHO references may be useful in reviewing equipment requirements.

Signature Authenticated by ApproveIt?  
Approved by: sidney A. Brooks,  
on: Friday, 26 March, 2004 at 11:51:44  
*Sidney A. Brooks*

SIDNEY A. BROOKS  
Colonel, Dental Corps  
Commanding

STATEMENT OF PROFICIENCY

Office Symbol

Date

MEMORANDUM FOR

SUBJECT: Demonstration of Clinical Proficiency in the Use of  
Parenteral Techniques of Conscious Sedation (Intravenous  
Sedation)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name and grade of individual \_\_\_\_\_ has  
demonstrated clinical proficiency and knowledge of the drugs and  
procedures used for parenteral techniques of conscious sedation  
by treating patients while under the direct supervision of a  
dental or medical officer privileged and experienced in the use  
of this modality.

Officer Certifying Clinical Proficiency:

Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

DENTAC Commander's Signature Block